



## Sexual Harassment in Housing

### What is sexual harassment in housing?

Sexual harassment in housing is when a housing provider or their employee:

- makes unwelcome sexual advances
- demands sex or sexual favors
- repeatedly uses words or acts of a sexual nature
- rapes or sexually assaults you



**IT IS ILLEGAL**

### What kinds of housing does the law apply to?

The law can apply to all kinds of housing. This includes privately owned houses, apartment buildings, condo associations, public housing, and homeless shelters.

### What are some examples of sexual harassment in housing?

When the harasser

- asks you out on a date
- asks you to trade sex or sexual favors for rent
- threatens to evict you because you refuse to have sex with them
- won't make repairs because you won't have sex or because you tell them to stop
- makes sexual comments to you that make you feel threatened or uncomfortable
- touches you in an unwanted sexual way
- rapes or sexually assaults you

It does not matter if you go along with it or refuse. Even if you have gone along with demands for sex in the past, **you have the right to stop it now.**

### What can I do?

The most important thing is safety -Call for help! **If you are assaulted, call 911.**

- If you are not comfortable reporting to the police but want to talk to someone, call Day One Crisis Line at 1-888-223-1111 or text 612-399-9995.

- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or a city agency. Call them for information on what to do. They will investigate your claim for free. In most cases, you need to file a complaint or lawsuit within 1 or sometimes 2 years.

**MN Department of Human Rights**

Griggs Midway Building  
540 Fairview Ave North, Suite 201  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Phone: (651) 539-1100 or 1(800) 657-3704  
MN Relay: 711 or 1(800) 627-3529

Discrimination helpline: 1-(833) 454-0148

Email at: [info.mdhr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.mdhr@state.mn.us) Website at: [www.mn.gov/mdhr/](http://www.mn.gov/mdhr/)

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

Minneapolis Field Office  
212 Third Ave South, Suite 150  
Minneapolis MN 55401

Phone: (612) 370-3000

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

77 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 2600  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
Phone: (800) 765-9372

**For both offices:** [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)



- Call a lawyer to talk about your options. A lawyer can:
  - Get a court order to keep the harasser away from you
  - Fight eviction that your landlord filed because of your response to sexual harassment
  - Start a civil rights case and ask the court to make the landlord pay money damages to you.

## Know Your Rights

- It is illegal for a landlord or housing employees to make you have sex with them by threatening to evict you if you don't.
- It is illegal for a landlord to make unwanted sexual comments to you that make you feel intimidated.
- If you are being sexually harassed by your housing provider, tell them to stop.
- Write down what happened to you while it is still fresh in your memory. It is important to have written records.
- It is illegal for a landlord to evict you because you called the police for help.

**You have the right to be free from sexual harassment.**

## To Learn More

Call your local legal aid office at 1(877) 696-6529.

Look for other programs that may help at [www.lawhelpmn.org/providers-and-clinics](http://www.lawhelpmn.org/providers-and-clinics).

Go to [www.LawHelpMN.org](http://www.LawHelpMN.org) for more information about fair housing rights and resources.



***Fact Sheets are legal information NOT legal advice. See a lawyer for advice.***

*Don't use this fact sheet if it is more than 1 year old. Ask us for updates, a fact sheet list, or alternate formats.*

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